

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette comprising a tobacco rod wrapped in a wrapper and a filter joined thereto, the filter being wrapped along the length thereof in a tipping paper or other wrapper being other than a plugwrap, and a strip of material covering the joint abutment of the tobacco rod and the filter, thus connecting the filter and tobacco rod, wherein the inherent permeability of the tipping paper or other wrapper is 50-500 CU.
2. (Original): A filter cigarette according to Claim 1, wherein the strip of material is tipping paper.
3. (Original): A filter cigarette according to Claim 1, wherein the strip of material is a foil material.
4. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to ~~Claims 1, 2 or 3~~ Claim 1, wherein the strip of material is printed or imprinted.
5. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein the strip of material has a width of 4 to 12 mm.
6. (Original): A filter cigarette according to Claim 5, wherein the strip of material has a width of 6 to 10 mm.
7. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, wherein the strip of material extends over a maximum of 20% of the length of filter.
8. (Original): A filter cigarette according to Claim 7, wherein the strip of material extends over less than 15% of the length of filter.
9. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, wherein the degree of coverage of the strip of material interattaching the filter and tobacco rod is equal.
10. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1, wherein the tipping paper or other wrapper contains ventilation holes.

11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, wherein the basis weight of the tipping or other wrapper is 25-45 g/m².
13. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, wherein the tobacco rod wrapper is a wrapper comprising a particulate ceramic filler of predefined shape and a binder, with optional ash improver and/or burn additive.
14. (Original): A filter cigarette according to Claim 13, wherein the ceramic filler is present in the range of 50-95% by weight of the wrapper.
15. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to Claim 13 ~~[[or 14]]~~, wherein the ceramic filler has a particle size in the range of 2-90µm.
16. (Original): A filter cigarette according to Claim 15, wherein the ceramic filler has a mean particle size of about 50µm.
17. (Currently Amended): A filter cigarette according to ~~any one of Claims 13, 14, 15 or 16~~ Claim 13, wherein the ceramic filler is alumina or another similar thermally stable metal oxide or metal salt.
18. (New): A filter cigarette according to Claim 1, wherein said other wrapper is a barrier material which has a pore size of less than about 5µm.
19. (New): A filter cigarette according to Claim 18, wherein said barrier material has a pore size of less than about 1µm.
20. (New): A filter cigarette according to Claim 18, wherein said barrier material is formed from a vaporous porous polymeric material.
21. (New): A filter cigarette according to Claim 1, wherein a particulate material is applied at a predetermined location on said tipping paper or other wrapper.
22. (New): A filter cigarette according to Claim 21, wherein said particulate material is one or more of activated charcoal, activated carbon and molecule sieves.
23. (New): A filter cigarette according to Claim 1, wherein, when the tipping paper or other wrapper is perforated, the level of ventilation is between 50 and 5,000 CU/cm length in the area of the perforation.

24. (Canceled)

25. (New): A filter cigarette according to Claim 1, wherein the basis weight of the strip of material is in the range of 20-50g/m².

26. (Original): A method of reducing filter-tip cigarette manufacturing cost, the method comprising providing batches of filters wrapped along their length in a tipping paper or other wrapper being other than plugwrap, and each batch of wrapped filters having a predetermined ventilation level and being sourced from the same filter making machine, and supplying the batches of ventilated wrapped filters to respective filter tip assembly machines capable of producing a double cigarette assembly of a double filter between two wrapped tobacco rods, each filter tip assembly machine utilising two narrow strips of material to interattach the double filter and two wrapped tobacco rods, cutting the double filter to provide two filter tip cigarettes, and thereby producing batches of differently ventilated filter tip cigarettes from a plurality of filter tip assembly machines.

27. (Original): A method of producing filter tip cigarettes comprising a filter wrapped in a tipping paper or other wrapper being other than plugwrap and a tobacco rod wrapped in a wrapper, the tipping paper or other wrapper of the filter having particulate material attached thereto, the method comprising the steps of supplying filter tow to a filter making machine, supplying the tipping paper or other wrapper to a particulate material applying station located at the filter making machine, at which station particulate material is attached to the tipping or other wrapper, wrapping the filter tow with the treated wrapper and cutting the wrapped filter tow into unit filter lengths, thereafter supplying the cut lengths to a filter tip assembly machine to produce filter tip cigarettes.

28. (Currently Amended): A method according to Claim ~~18 or 19~~ 26, wherein an inherently porous tipping paper is employed.

29. (Currently Amended): A method according to Claim ~~18 or 19~~ 26, wherein said tipping paper or other wrapper is provided with ventilation holes either during or after manufacture.

30. (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~Claims 18 or 19~~ Claim 26, wherein the filter cigarette is provided with ventilation holes in the tipping paper or other wrapper.

IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO FILTER-TIP CIGARETTES
AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SAME
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31. (Currently Amended): A method according to ~~any one of Claims 18-23~~ Claim 26, wherein the ventilation holes are produced mechanically or by laser means.